A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing AEZs, with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets and suggest remedial action, is in progress. The proposals for setting up of new AEZs will be taken up for sanction after the evaluation is completed.

(c) None of the proposals for setting up AEZs have been rejected so far.

Industrial clusters in Karnataka

2365. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for Development of Industrial clusters in Karnataka under Industrial Upgradation Scheme (IUS) is pending with Government of India;

(b) if so, whether industrial clusters are included in the above proposal; and

(c) by when Government is likely to accord the sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) This Department has received proposal for development of Industrial clusters in Karnataka under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme and two projects for Machine Tools Cluster, Bangalore and Foundry Industry Cluster, Belgaum have already been sanctioned.

Look east policy

†2366. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated look east policy for signing trade and economic agreements with West Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of trade in the country likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (b) It has been decided to have negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprising the member countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE with the aim of promoting bilateral trade and to provide impetus to general economic activity.

New industrial policy in Gujarat

2367. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to introduce new industrial policy in Gujarat State during the last four years; and

(b) the sectors in which investment has so far been made in the State during the said period, location-wise, together with the amount of investment made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Under the liberalized industrial policy, decision to set up industry depends upon the commercial judgement of the entrepreneur which, in turn, is also based on the initiatives taken by the State Government by way of providing basic infrastructural facilities and other incentives. Industrial Development is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supports the efforts by providing support/incentives under its various schemes, particularly for development of industrially disadvantageous areas. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, three Growth Centres at Gandhidham, Palanpur and Vagra in Gujarat have been sanctioned. Further, under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, project proposals in respect of four clusters in Gujarat, namely Chemical Cluster at Vapi, Ankleswar, Ahmedabad and Gem and Jewellery Cluster at Surat have also been approved.

The Sector-wise distribution of investment proposals based on the Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs)/Direct Indistrial Licences (DILs) issued during the last four years for the State of Gujarat is given in the Statement.